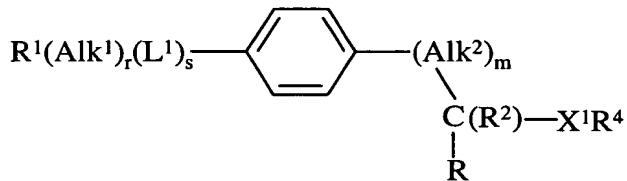


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (1a):



wherein:

$R$  is a carboxylic acid;

$R^1$  is an optionally substituted a pyridyl group substituted by one or two halogen atoms;

$-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s$  is a  $-CH_2O-$  or  $-CON(R^5)-$  group;

$Alk^1$  is an optionally substituted  $C_{1-6}$  aliphatic chain or an optionally substituted chain selected from  $L^2CH_2$ ,  $CH_2L^2CH_2$ ,  $L^2(CH_2)_2$ ,  $CH_2L^2(CH_2)_2$ ,  $(CH_2)_2L^2CH_2$ ,  $L^2(CH_2)_3$ , and  $(CH_2)_2L^2(CH_2)_2$ , where  $L^2$  is selected from the group consisting of  $O$ ,  $S$ ,  $C(O)$ ,  $C(O)O$ ,  $C(S)$ ,  $S(O)$ ,  $S(O)_2$ ,  $N(R^5)$ ,  $CON(R^5)$ ,  $OC(O)N(R^5)$ ,  $CSN(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)CO$ ,  $N(R^5)C(O)O$ ,  $N(R^5)CS$ ,  $S(O)N(R^5)$ ,  $S(O)_2N(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)S(O)$ ,  $N(R^5)S(O)_2$ ,  $N(R^5)CON(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)CSN(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)SON(R^5)$ , and  $N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)$ ;

$R^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group;

$L^1$  is  $O$ ,  $S$ ,  $C(O)$ ,  $C(O)O$ ,  $C(S)$ ,  $S(O)$ ,  $S(O)_2$ ,  $N(R^5)$ ,  $CON(R^5)$ ,  $OC(O)N(R^5)$ ,  $CSN(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)CO$ ,  $N(R^5)C(O)O$ ,  $N(R^5)CS$ ,  $S(O)N(R^5)$ ,  $S(O)_2N(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)S(O)$ ,  $N(R^5)S(O)_2$ ,  $N(R^5)CON(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)CSN(R^5)$ ,  $N(R^5)SON(R^5)$ , or  $N(R^5)SO_2N(R^5)$ ;

$r$  and  $s$ , which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

Alk<sup>2</sup> is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

X<sup>1</sup> is a group selected from -N(R<sup>3</sup>)CO-, (where R<sup>3</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); -N(R<sup>3</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>-; -N(R<sup>3</sup>)C(O)O- or -N(R<sup>3</sup>)CON(R<sup>3a</sup>)- (where R<sup>3a</sup> is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

R<sup>4</sup> is ~~an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> aliphatic, C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloalkenyl, C<sub>7-10</sub> bicycloalkyl, C<sub>7-10</sub> tricycloalkyl, C<sub>7-10</sub> bicycloalkenyl, or C<sub>7-10</sub> tricycloalkenyl group a straight or branched C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group;~~

~~and the salts, solvates, hydrates or N-oxides thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

2-5. (canceled)

6. (original) A compound according to Claim 5 wherein -(Alk<sup>1</sup>)<sub>i</sub>(L<sup>1</sup>)<sub>s</sub>- is a -CONH-group.

7. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein Alk<sup>2</sup> is -CH<sub>2</sub>-; m is an integer 1, and R<sup>2</sup> is a hydrogen atom.

8. (original) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a -NHCO-, -NHSO<sub>2</sub>-, -NHC(O)O- or -NHCONH- group.

9. (original) A compound according to Claim 8 wherein X<sup>1</sup> is a -NHCO- group.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~Claim 10~~ Claim 1 wherein R<sup>4</sup> is an ~~optionally substituted a~~ straight or branched C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, ~~cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl~~ or adamantly group.

12. (currently amended) A compound which is:

*N*-Isopaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

*N*-Cyclopropaloyl-*N*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

*N*-Acetyl-*N'*-(3,5-dichloroisonicotinoyl)-*L*-4-aminophenylalanine;

~~and the salts, solvates, hydrates or N-oxides thereof or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

13. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or diluents.

14-19. (canceled)

20. (new) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is a pyridyl group substituted by one or two chlorine atoms.